

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION  
Monday, May 7, 2012  
TEDCO Offices, 9:30 AM**

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**Action Item: A motion was passed to extend the deadline for the Clinical and Pre-Clinical Pre-applications to November 15, 2012. Dan will make every effort to inform potential applicants of this extension.**

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**Members in attendance:**

Brenda Crabbs  
Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair  
Sharon Krag  
Linda Powers  
Avram Reisner  
Karen Rothenberg  
Ira Schwartz  
Jeremy Sugarman  
Curt Van Tassell  
Bowen Weisheit  
Kevin Fitzgerald

**Others in Attendance:**

Dan Gincel, TEDCO  
Rob Rosenbaum, TEDCO  
Sabrina Barksdale

**The Commission meeting was called to order at 9:35am**

- I. Commission Chair Margaret Conn Himelfarb reported that Dr. Norma Andrews, a representative from the University System of Maryland, resigned from the Commission because she is now collaborating with a stem cell researcher. (The Stem Cell Research Act of 2006 prohibits members of the Commission from conducting stem cell research.) Margaret thanked Dr. Andrews for her service. Her vacated position will be filled in the near future.

Margaret also expressed sincere appreciation to the following founding members for their dedicated and invaluable service to the Commission: Jeremy Sugarman, former Vice Chair Brenda Crabbs, and the first two Commission Chairs, Linda Powers and Karen Rothenberg. The Stem Cell Act stipulates that Commission members shall serve a maximum of three two-year terms (six years), and those who reach their term limits shall continue to serve until their replacements have been appointed. Bowen Weisheit and Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg, also founding members, have been reappointed to the Commission by the Governor and the University System of Maryland, respectively.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. Management Report

Director Dan Gincel presented the Administrative Report, which focused on the following items:

#### A. Fifth Annual Maryland Stem Cell Symposium-Update

- The 2012 Stem Cell Symposium will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Doubletree Annapolis Hotel.
- Dan is currently recruiting and soliciting sponsorships for the two-day event.
- The symposium will include an opening reception, keynote speakers, scientific talks, workshops, exhibits, and poster sessions.
- The registration Web site is currently under construction.
- Scheduling logistics for this event will be available soon.

#### B. 2012 Legislative Session and Anticipated Special Legislative Session

The 2012 General Assembly ended its session in April 2012 without approving the needed revenue increase to balance the State's FY2013 budget. As a result, the alternative "Doomsday budget" is currently in effect by default, thereby eliminating all MSCRF funding for FY2013. However, a special Legislative Session is scheduled to convene from May 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the outcome of this Session, some or all of the Governor's proposed MSCRF budget could be restored. Dan will keep the Commission updated.

#### C. Pre-Clinical and Clinical Grant Applications

Various announcements have been made to solicit applications for the new Pre-clinical and Clinical Research Grant Program. To date, a total of seven pre-applications have been received (6 pre-clinical and 1 clinical). A motion was made and seconded to extend the pre-applications deadline until November 15, 2012 to allow more time to effectively solicit applications to this new funding program. The motion passed unanimously.

#### D. Future Meeting Date

The following date will be circulated to the members of the Commission to ascertain their availability for the next meeting: Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2pm-5pm (time may change).

### IV. Statement for Closing the Meeting

A motion was made and seconded that the Commission go into closed session. The motion stated the following:

#### STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

##### **State Government Article Sec.10-503(a)(1)(i):**

This subtitle does not apply to ... a public body when it is carrying out ... an administrative function.

##### **State Government Article Sec.10-508(a)(5):**

A public body may meet in closed session ... to consider the investment of public funds.

##### **State Government Article Sec.10-508(a)(13):**

A public body may meet in closed session ... to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

#### **TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

The discussion will concern the implementation of the Commission's previously adopted criteria for grant funding. The Commission will discuss which applications to recommend for funding, given the scientific rankings and other relevant factors. The discussion might also relate to the characteristics of specific applications.

**REASON FOR CLOSING:**

Paralleling the NIH process for considering funding applications, the Commission believes that confidentiality is essential to protect the sensitive information about plans and processes that applicants divulge, to avoid a chilling effect on future submissions, and to enable the most candid Commission discussion of how best to invest its limited resources.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 10AM.

In the closed session, Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg was represented by her notes, and attendance was as listed above. The Commission reviewed the scientific peer review ranking of, and key information about, the applications recommended for funding within the three current categories of grant funding (Investigator-Initiated, Exploratory and Post-Doctoral Fellowship). All applicants' names and affiliated institutions had been redacted. The Commission focused on applications that received competitive, meritorious scientific scores, giving priority to applications that included collaborations, regenerative medicine, translational research, and underfunded areas of research.

The Commission recommended applications from each of these three funding categories for TEDCO Board approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.